from domestic and international markets, to establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries subject to certain financial limits.

(c) and (d) The selection and appointment of full-time Directors and Part-time Government Directors would continue to be done as per existing practice. However, the selection of non-official part-time Directors in these Navaratna companies would be done by a Search Committee already set up by the Government to facilitate the induction of professional non-official part-time Directors of impeccable stature and background.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal at present to take them out of the purview of Government vigilance, audit and other investigating agencies.

Industrial Policy for North-Eastern Region

*151. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to formulate a separate Industrial Policy for the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith salient features of the Policy?

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(d) the benefit expected from this new policy; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal to formulate a separate industrial Policy for North-Eastern Region is under consideration of the Government. The final decision in this regard is expected to be taken shortly. The Policy package will accelerate industrial development in the North-Eastern Region.

Export of Gold Jewellery

*152. Dr. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether under Import Policy Scheme, 1996-97, gold is given on loan to exporters by MMTC for converting it into ornaments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and total quantity of gold so given during 1997 till July for such conversion;

(c) whether gold jewellery exported to Dubai was fake and returned back after over a year;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty firm/officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Exim Policy, 1992-97, MMTC as one of the nominated agencies was issuing gold on loan basis to the exporters in EPZs/EOUs and in DTA for manufacture and export of gold jewellery against specified bank guarantees and continued to do so during 1996-97. Total gold supplied by MMTC to the exporters on loan for manufacture and export of gold jewellery in 1997 till 15.7.1997 is 5091 kgs.

(c) to (e) Five Export parcels involving two parties were recalled in Feb, 1996 to India from Dubai for verification. These parcels were opened in the presence of officials from Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the Central Intelligence unit of customs and discrepancies were found in these parcels. Investiga-tions have been started by the Customs Department and the DRI against these parties.

Bank Scams

*153. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scams which have taken place in the Pulbic Sector Banks during the last three years and the details thereof;

(b) the *modus-operandi* adopted in each case;

(c) the number and details of bank officers involved in these scams;

(d) the action taken in the regard by the Government;

(e) the present status of enquiry in respect of each scam; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide a fool-proof banking system to the public ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) The information relating to number of frauds detected in public sector banks, amount involved and action taken against delinquent employees for their involvement in frauds during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 is given below :-

	1994	1995	1996
1	2	3	4
Number of frauds	2266	1890	1954
Amount of involved (Rs. in lakhs)	20007.88 +Uganda Shilling 9844000	11551.12	31937.63
Action Taken against officers			
(a) No. of employees convicited	50	33	46